



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Laura Rizer
Community Outreach & Resource Services Manager
703-737-8045 (office) | 571-233-3033 (cell)
laura.rizer@loudoun.gov (email)

Animal Control Warns of Dangers of Thin Ice

February 18, 2010 – Waterford, VA – Loudoun County Animal Care & Control reminds citizens, especially owners of horses and livestock, to beware of the dangers of animals falling through ice covered ponds. Animals have been reported to be found on frozen ponds throughout the area.

While many area ponds are covered in snow and ice, as temperatures begin to warm, the ice is often not thick enough to support the weight of animals. Horses and cattle are especially in danger due to their large size, however, dogs and smaller animals are also at risk.

Falling through ice causes the death of dogs and other animals every year in Loudoun County.

Property owners are encouraged to install temporary fencing if possible around icy water areas, and to ensure that animals have access to plenty of fresh drinking water. Animals cannot get adequate hydration by eating snow or ice.

Dog owners are also reminded to be vigilant about ensuring that their pet does not venture out onto frozen ponds. Falling through ice can result in severe injury or death for the animal. Citizens who do see an animal that has fallen through the ice are urged to call Animal Control and to be extremely careful, as often untrained rescuers become injured or incapacitated themselves.

Animal Control can be reached during normal business hours at 703-777-0406. After hours emergency Animal Control services can be accessed by calling 703-777-0445.

Loudoun County Animal Care & Control is located at 39820 Charles Town Pike, Waterford, VA 20197. Department information, including hours of operation and updates on inclement weather closings, can be found at www.loudoun.gov/animals.

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